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## National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update November 15, 2010

### **Data and Analysis**

**MPA Center Launches California Ocean Atlas Online Data Viewer:** The National Marine Protected Areas Center has launched the California Ocean Uses Atlas [online data viewer](#), an interactive application developed in collaboration with NOAA's [Special Projects Office](#). This tool was designed to help users visualize the results of the California Ocean Uses Atlas project, a collaboration between the MPA Center and the [Marine Conservation Biology Institute](#). This viewer serves data on 27 different uses representing the suite of human ocean activities covering the area from California's coastline to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Users can answer simple spatial queries on overlapping human uses in California's ocean, and display use data relative to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other background layers. Use data were collected through a series of participatory workshops for ocean use experts held between October 2008 and July 2009. Data displayed in the data viewer reflect the "Dominant Use Areas" of each use, defined as where most of the use happens most of the time, and as mapped by multiple, independent groups. For more detailed information on the general footprint for each use, GIS data, maps, and project information, click [here](#). ([Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov](mailto:Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov); [Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov](mailto:Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov); Lance Morgan ([lance@mcbi.org](mailto:lance@mcbi.org))

### **Library Links of the Week**

A recent, internationally peer-reviewed report commissioned by Natural England has been released to provide guidance on the viability of MPA networks for the British government. The objective of the report is to determine how large a protected area needs to be in order to "encompass most naturally occurring ecological processes and the home ranges of the species or groups of species characteristic of habitat communities which are the target for protection" (p. ii). In order to make this determination, the report reviews both peer-reviewed and gray literature in order to identify the home range of adults, minimum viable population, dispersal and self-seeding, and spatial and temporal dynamics of the species and habitats of conservation importance. The report, "Meeting the MPA Network Principle of Viability" is available at: <http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NECR043> ([Chris.Belter@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Belter@noaa.gov))

A recent report released by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers explores the impact of MPAs on fishing communities in southern Thailand. Noting the relative scarcity of research into the socioeconomic effects of MPAs on local fishing communities, this report attempts to present a holistic assessment of the effects of MPA formation on local fishworkers. The report examines the status of fisheries and marine and coastal resources, the legal and institutional directives for MPA design and management, and the types of MPAs currently implemented in Thailand. In addition, the report also

presents a case study of a marine national park in southern Thailand and concludes with recommendations for moving forward. The report, "Time for a Sea Change: A Study of the Effectiveness of Biodiversity Conservation Measures and Marine Protected Areas Along Southern Thailand's Andaman Sea Coastline" is available at:

[http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/publications/monograph/pdf/english/issue\\_110/ALL.pdf](http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/publications/monograph/pdf/english/issue_110/ALL.pdf)  
([Chris.Belter@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Belter@noaa.gov))

### **Events and Conferences**

The following is a listing of events and conferences that the MPA Center is organizing or that MPA Center staff members plan to attend.

#### November 2010

15-19: ICES Study Group on Designing MPA Networks in a Changing Climate, Woods Hole, MA (Brock)

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The mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.

The MPA Center's goals are to:

1. Build and maintain the National System of MPAs
2. Improve MPA Stewardship and Effectiveness
3. Coordinate International, National, and Regional MPA Activities

For more information, go to: [www.MPA.gov](http://www.MPA.gov).